

is sewn to the tampon pad using thread. The tampon components are compressed axially and longitudinally then heated to form a tampon pledget of approximately 14mm diameter and approximately 46mm length with a 20mm strip of wicking material extending beyond the pledget.

5        The Horizontal Gravimetric Wicking Test was performed on resulting tampon pledget. The tampon pledget was positioned as described above so that the end edge of the wicking strip is in contact with the meniscus of Artificial Menstrual Fluid. The resulting horizontal wicking capacity for the sample at 500 sec and the fluid uptake was  $1.66 \pm 0.10$  grams of Artificial Menstrual Fluid per gram of tampon.

10        Comparative Example 4: A comparative tampon is made similar in design to that disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 6,248,075 B1 issued on July 10, 2001 to The Procter & Gamble Company. The tampon comprises an absorbent material of 75% rayon and 25% cotton fiber with a basis weight of 780 gsm having dimensions of about 70mm in width and about 48mm in length. The tampons also comprises an overwrap of bicomponent polyethylene/polypropylene fibers  
15        made by Sandler with a basis weight of 17 gsm having dimensions of about 168mm in width and about 48mm in length. The overwrap is wrapped around the absorbent material such that no material extends above or below the length of the absorbent material. A cotton cord intermittently containing rayon sliver is sewn onto the middle of the tampon pad formed by absorbent material and overwrap, such that the portion of the cord containing rayon sliver  
20        extends approximately 15mm into and approximately 25mm beyond the withdrawal end of the tampon. The tampon components are compressed axially and longitudinally then heated to form a tampon pledget of approximately 14mm diameter and approximately 46mm length with a 25mm length of wicking material extending below the pledget.

25        A tampon of The Horizontal Gravimetric Wicking Test was performed on resulting tampon pledget. The tampon pledget was positioned as described in Test Methods above so that the end edge of the wicking cord is in contact with the meniscus of Artificial Menstrual Fluid. The resulting horizontal wicking capacity for the sample at 500sec the fluid uptake was  $0.89 \pm 0.05$  grams of Artificial Menstrual Fluid per gram of tampon.

30        What is claimed is:

CLAIMS

1. A catamenial tampon comprising:

a compressed absorbent member having an inner region and an exterior surface, said compressed absorbent member comprising an absorbent material;

said absorbent material having a first surface opposed to the second surface and an insertion end opposed to a withdrawal end;

a fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said first surface and said second surface of said absorbent material;

said fluid wicking overwrap extending beyond the withdrawal end of said absorbent material to form a skirt portion;

said fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said exterior surface of the compressed absorbent member; and

a portion of said fluid wicking overwrap substantially permeating said inner region of said compressed absorbent member.

2. A tampon according to Claim 1 wherein said fluid wicking overwrap has a low adherence to tissue.
3. A tampon according to Claim 1 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap comprises synthetic fibers and natural fibers.
4. A tampon according to Claim 3 wherein the ratio of the synthetic fibers to natural fibers is from about 90:10 to about 30:70.

5. A tampon according to Claim 1 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap has a horizontal gravimetric wicking capacity with a range of from about 2 to about 6 grams of fluid per gram of tampon at a 500 second interval.

6. A tampon according to Claim 1 wherein said fluid wicking overwrap is hydroentangled and comprises about 50% rayon and about 50% polyester.

7. A tampon according to Claim 10 wherein said skirt portion extends from about 5mm to about 30mm from said withdrawal end of said absorbent material.

8. A tampon according to Claim 1 further comprising a non-aggressive overwrap, which substantially covers a portion of the fluid wicking overwrap on the exterior surface of the compressed absorbent member.

9. A catamenial tampon comprising:

a compressed absorbent member having an inner region and an exterior surface, said compressed absorbent member comprising an absorbent material;

said absorbent material having a first surface opposed to the second surface and an insertion end opposed to a withdrawal end;

a fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said first surface and said second surface of said absorbent material;

said fluid wicking overwrap extending beyond the withdrawal end of said absorbent material to form a skirt portion;

said fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said exterior surface of the compressed absorbent member;

a portion of said fluid wicking overwrap substantially permeating said inner region of said compressed absorbent member; and

a withdrawal means attached to said compressed absorbent member and extending beyond at least said withdrawal end.

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10. A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein said fluid wicking overwrap does not substantially adhere to the tissue.
11. A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap is 100% rayon.
12. A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap has a horizontal gravimetric wicking capacity with a range from about 2.5 to about 5 grams of fluid per gram of tampon at a 500 second interval.
13. A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein said fluid wicking overwrap comprises a thermally bonded 50% rayon 50% polypropylene.
14. A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein said skirt portion extends from 2mm to 20mm from said withdrawal end of said absorbent material.
15. A tampon according to Claim 14 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap comprises synthetic fibers and natural fibers.
16. A process for making a tampon comprising:
- (a) providing an absorbent material having a first surface opposed to a second surface and an insertion end opposed to a withdrawal end;
  - (b) providing a fluid wicking overwrap;

(c) creating a wrapped absorbent by substantially covering said first surface and second surface of said absorbent material with said fluid wicking overwrap; said fluid wicking overwrap extending beyond said withdrawal end of said absorbent material to form a skirt portion.

(d) compressing said wrapped absorbent to form a compressed absorbent member having a vaginally insertable shape, said compressed absorbent member having an inner region and an exterior surface;

wherein upon compression said fluid wicking overwrap substantially covers the exterior surface of the compressed absorbent member and substantially permeates the inner region of the compressed absorbent member.

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17. A process according to Claim 16 further comprising the step of providing a withdrawal means and attaching said withdrawal means to said wrapped absorbent prior to compression.
18. A process according to Claim 16 further comprising the step of providing an insertion means and positioning said compressed primary absorbent within said insertion means.
19. A process according to Claim 16 further comprising the step of rolling the wrapped absorbent before compression.
20. A process according to Claim 16 wherein the skirt portion extends at least about 3mm from the withdrawal end.